



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
**2013 Deer Zone Information**

Wildlife Branch  
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95811



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General Deer Hunting Information For  
**ZONE X-6b**  
**and**  
**Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-12**  
(Includes Additional Hunt M-3)

**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE**

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone X-6b located in portions of Lassen and Plumas counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-12; Zone X-6b Archery Hunt), Zone X-6b general season and any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

**Northern Region Office (Region 1), 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001 (530-225-2300)**  
encompassing Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties.

**North Central Region Office (Region 2), 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900)** encompassing Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, northeastern Sacramento, eastern San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, northern Yolo and Yuba counties.

**REGULATIONS**

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.aspx>. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more.

Remember, if you are hunting on private property you must obtain, and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to, or file an online harvest report (see highlighted area below on Internet Harvest Reporting) with DFW within 30 days of taking a deer.

**INTERNET HARVEST REPORTING**

In anticipation of mandatory harvest reporting for all big game species, in 2012 DFW began offering an Internet reporting option for hunters to submit big game tag/report card information. Both successful and unsuccessful hunters will be able to report their hunt results online via DFW's Online License Service at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/harvestreporting/>. Hunters logging into the system are now able to view all their tags that require reports. Hunters submitting reports online will receive a report confirmation number and will not have to mail in their report card(s). DFW encourages all hunters (including those who were unsuccessful or who had a tag but did not hunt) to use this new service to meet their respective reporting requirement(s).

Accurate harvest information is a crucial element in developing population estimates, tag quotas, assessment of current hunt programs, and in the development of new opportunities. An online reporting option will provide that information in a more timely and convenient manner.

## **OBTAINING DEER TAGS**

Beginning in late 2010, DFW began implementation of the new Automated License Data System (ALDS). Under this computer data system, all licenses, stamps and tags are applied for, and issued through online Point-of-Sale terminals (IPOS) located at various DFW license offices, over 1,400 license agents statewide or online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/>. Under ALDS much less paperwork is required to apply for, and receive tags. In addition, licenses, tags and entry into the Big Game Drawing can all be accomplished with one trip to a license agent. Once your personal information is entered and stored in the database, the database controls and tracks what you have applied for, or been issued, as well as preference points.

Other than the way you apply for and receive licenses and tags, the primary difference you will notice is in the form that the license or tag comes. Instead of the old style license or postcard type deer tag, they will all come out of the IPOS terminal in the form of a long receipt. If successful at harvesting a deer, filling out the tag and report card portion, validation and report card return requirements remain unchanged. For more specific information on ALDS, application procedures and zone/hunt information, check out the 2013 California Big Game Hunting Digest available by May at most DFW offices and license agents or online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest/>

For deer tag distribution purposes, zones and hunts are classified based upon the date in which the zone or hunt tag quota is filled in the prior year. The three tag categories include:

- 1) **"Premium"** zone/hunt tags are only issued through the Big Game Drawing using a First-Deer Tag Drawing Application, except that junior hunters may use their Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application to apply for Apprentice (J) Hunts. Hunters will lose all accumulated deer preference points if drawn for their first choice in the Big Game Drawing.;
- 2) **"Restricted"** zone/hunt tags are available upon application with a First-Deer Tag, or a Second-Deer Tag after August 1.; and
- 3) **"Unrestricted"** zone/hunt tags are available at any time using either a First- or Second-Deer Tag.

For Zone X-6b and associated hunts within the zone, the tag categories are as follows:

- 1) **Premium** Deer Hunts – **X6b, A12 and M3**
- 2) **Restricted** Deer Hunts – None
- 3) **Unrestricted** Deer Hunts – None

**General Season Tags (Zone X-6b):** The 2013 deer hunting regulations specific to Zone X-6b and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer during the general season in Zone X-6b, a hunter must possess a Zone X-6b tag. This tag is valid in Zone X-6b, but **ONLY** during the prescribed general season. Zone X-6b tags **MAY NOT** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-12 archery season, even with archery equipment.

**Archery Season Tags (Hunt A-12):** To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone X-6b, hunters must possess an Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-12 tag. This tag is only valid during the Hunt A-12 archery season and **MAY NOT** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even with archery equipment. Additionally, Archery Only Tags (AO Tags) are **NOT** valid in any X zone or archery hunt within an X zone.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone X-6b are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section near the end of this sheet. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and apply by the **June 2, 2013 deadline**. Information regarding application procedures and restrictions, ALDS, zone and hunt seasons, prior year drawing and hunt statistics are contained in the 2013 Big Game Hunting Digest available at most Department offices, license agents and online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest/>

## **LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Zone X-6b contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone X-6b are administered by the Lassen and Plumas National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

### **USFS Offices:**

Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-2151)

Plumas National Forest, P.O. Box 11500, 159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971-6025 (530-283-2050)

### **BLM Offices:**

Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-0456)

In Zone X-6b and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/plm.html>

**Reminder:** Mountain Hough Game Refuge (1-H), Smith Peak State Game Refuge (1-V), and Dixie Mountain State Game Refuge (1-P) are closed to hunting.

## **MAPS**

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/zonemapsinfo.html>

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the Lassen and Plumas National Forest maps. USFS maps are available locally at most USFS offices; by contacting the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737); or ordered by phone (406-329-3024), fax (406-329-3030), mail at USDA Forest Service, National Forest Store, P.O. Box 8268, Missoula, MT 59807, or on-line at <http://www.nationalforeststore.com/>.

BLM surface management maps may also be useful and include the Portola and Susanville maps. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

## **ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS**

Although there is a lot of private land in Zone X-6b, there are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access. Primary roadways in Zone X-6b are U.S. Highway 395 (eastern X-6b) and State Highway 70 (southern X-6b). Many County, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

## **WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS**

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone X-6b covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of Zone X-6b. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding

forage conditions for livestock.

## **CAMPING**

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone X-6b. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

## **HARVEST INFORMATION**

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> For the purpose of planning or applying for hunts in this area, the harvest success and antler class information tables are the most useful. Tables containing Big Game Drawing statistics may also be useful in selecting a zone or hunt in which to apply. The table containing Big Game Drawing statistics for "Premium Hunts" can be found on pages 30-33 in the 2013 Big Game Hunting Digest available at most DFW offices, license agents and online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest/>.

## **HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS**

The deer population in Zone X-6b is at low density and considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone X-6b is primarily the Rocky Mountain mule deer, however Columbian black-tailed deer can be found in the zone. Deer in Zone X-6b are considered migratory. Deer in this area generally move to higher elevations west of the Sierra Crest in late spring and remain until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line east of the Sierra Crest and, ultimately, into Nevada. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-6b ranging from low sage, sagebrush, bitterbrush, aspen, hardwood-conifer, and juniper, to subalpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (higher elevation wildfire and non-selective timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Sagebrush and bitterbrush winter ranges in the Doyle area have been subjected to repeated detrimental wildfires, preventing bitterbrush re-establishment and ultimately may explain the decline in deer herds. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

## **HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER**

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Generally, the best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush. Early in

the season, the best hunting areas are Crocker Mountain, Reconnaissance Peak, Bald Rock, and the area around Frenchman Reservoir. Deer can be found throughout the summer range, so don't just concentrate on these sites. Later in the season, good hunting areas are east of the Sierra Crest and the Fort Sage Mountains. Other areas which have historically been popular and productive in Zone X-6b include: Adams Peak, Doyle Valley, Snow Lake and Sugar Loaf Mountain.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/docs/deerguide.pdf>

## **ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS**

In 2013, one additional hunt opportunity exists in Zone X-6b: 1) Hunt M-3 (Doyle Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deermaps.html>

## **2013 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**

(Any 2013 regulation changes from 2012 are **highlighted in yellow.**)

### **§ 360. Deer.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

#### **(b) X-Zone Hunts.**

##### **(9) Zone X-6b.**

(A) Area: In those portions of Lassen and Plumas counties within a line beginning at the junction of County Road 336 and Highway 395 at Milford; south on Highway 395 to the junction of Highway 395 and the Herlong Access Road (County Road A-25); east on the Herlong Access Road to its junction with the UP-WP railroad line at Herlong; east on the UP-WP railroad line to the Nevada-California state line; south on the Nevada-California state line to the junction of the Nevada-California state line and Highway 395 at Bordertown; northwest on Highway 395 to its junction at Highway 70; west on Highway 70 to its junction with County Road 112; north on County Road 112 to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Road 24N08 at Lake Davis; north on Forest Service Road 24N08 to its junction with County Road 111; northwest on County Road 111 to its junction with Forest Service Road 29N43 at Flournoy Bridge; north on Forest Service Road 29N43 to Forest Service Road 28N03 near Antelope Lake; southeast on Forest Service Road 28N03 to Forest Service Road 26N16 at Doyle Crossing; east on Forest Service Road 26N16 to County Road 336 near the Plumas-Lassen county line; north on County Road 336 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone X-6b shall open on the first Saturday in October and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: **310.**

#### **(c) Additional Hunts.**

##### **(16) M-3 (Doyle Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt).**

(A) Area: That portion of Lassen County within the area described as X-6b (see subsection 360(b)(9)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt M-3 (Doyle Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in November and extend for nine consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 20.

(E) Special Conditions: Only muzzleloading rifles as specified in Section 353 may be used.

##### **(44) Conditions for **Additional** Hunts.**

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

### **§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.**

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

##### **(10) A-12 (Zone X-6b Archery Hunt).**

(A) Area: As described in subsection 360(b)(9)(A).

(B) Season: The archery season for hunt A-12 (Zone X-6b Archery Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: **100.**

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

- (4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).
- (5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).
- (d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).
- (e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

\*\*\*\* GOOD LUCK! \*\*\*\*